

*South Dakota*

## DEPARTMENT OF TRIBAL RELATIONS



### IN THIS ISSUE

---

Letter from Secretary Flute - 2

---

Office of Indian Ed - 3

---

In the News - 4

---

State Tribal Relations Day - 5

---

Stronger Families Together - 6

---

Services, Information, &  
Contact Us - 7

---

### OUR DEPARTMENT'S MISSION

- Recognize the nine sovereign tribes who share our geographical borders as distinct political entities.
- Support their self-governance efforts.
- Work with their chosen leaders in a cooperative government-to-government relationship in order to improve the quality of life for all South Dakota citizens.
- Identify, develop and/or coordinate federal state and local resources to increase partnerships between state and tribal agencies.
- Introduce and/or support any legislation that would improve the quality of life for the Native American population in the state.



## LETTER FROM SECETARY FLUTE

*Department of Tribal Relations*

Friends,

As Fall comes to a close, we enjoy the last few remaining colorful leaves on the trees and prepare for the changing season. I am happy to share some words with you as we enter Winter together.

Congratulations to all the winning high school teams that competed in football and volleyball championships. What a great season! It's always fun to be in championship games. I encourage all Native students to equally be champions in the classroom.

Over the next year and beyond, the Department of Tribal Relations will be available to set-up a booth at events to assist with suicide prevention and promote mental health care. We hope to work with each of the nine tribes and other tribal groups to set-up at different local events, share resources, spread hope, and combine efforts to help reduce suicide in our state.

Thank you to all those that attended, promoted, and spoke at State-Tribal Meth Summit IV. Whitney Rencountre III was an outstanding emcee; we are very thankful for his energy and support of this important issue. The presenters were fantastic; they shared resources and provided updates on current trends that are helpful when we talk about how to combat this epidemic. Thank you to the Meth Summit workgroup from the Department of Social Services and the Department of Tribal Relations; their tireless work made this another successful Meth Summit. Together, we can combat meth in our communities. Meth is everyone's problem.

There is a great need for more Native foster families in South Dakota. Please review and share the Building Stronger Families initiative included in this newsletter. I encourage anyone interested in becoming a foster family to visit the site, you can find more about the initiative at <https://strongerfamieliestogether.sd.gov/>.

Finally, I want to wish everyone a safe and wonderful holiday season.

Best Wishes,

Cabinet Secretary,  
David Flute



FROM THE

# OFFICE OF INDIAN EDUCATION



## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION CELEBRATES NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH BY SPOTLIGHTING RESOURCES TO HELP SD K-12 EDUCATORS

To celebrate Native American Heritage Month the Department of Education spotlighted resources to help SD K-12 educators incorporate Native American culture and history into their teaching year-round, across all grades and content areas.

 [Read More Here](#)

## STRONG SCHOOLS 2021-22

*SD Department of Education*

 [Keep Calm – Recognize – Respond](#)

 [Federal COVID Funding](#)

## RESOURCES FOR TEACHING OCETI SAKOWIN ESSENTIAL UNDERSTANDINGS



[Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings & Standards](#)



[Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings Instructional Resources](#)

To request these print resources or inquire about additional resources, please contact Senior Secretary, Trista Olsen.

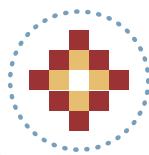
**Email: [trista.olsen@state.sd.us](mailto:trista.olsen@state.sd.us)**

**Phone: 605.773.2917**



Indian Education Summit 2021:  
Akhíptan was a success! Thank you to everyone who attended and presented at the event.


Presentations can be viewed by attendees until January 3rd to accumulate Continuing Education Units.



*The Wóokiye Project*

## GMMS SEES SUCCESS UNDER WÓOKIYE PROJECT AMID STANDARDS CONFLICT

9/27/2021

 [Read Here](#)




# IN THE NEWS



## **BIDEN SIGNS EXECUTIVE ORDER TO IMPROVE SAFETY, JUSTICE FOR NATIVE AMERICANS**

11/15/2021

 [Read Here](#)


## **BLENDING MUSIC AND BRIDGING CULTURES**

10/24/2021

 [Watch or Read Here](#)

## **INTERIOR DEPARTMENT TO HOLD TRIBAL CONSULTATIONS ON THE FEDERAL BOARDING SCHOOL INITIATIVE**

9/30/2021

 [Read Here](#)

## **SECRETARY FLUTE ASSURES TRIBES MEDCANNABIS PROGRAM WILL CONTINUE**

11/24/2021

 [Read Here](#)

## **STORY LINKS**

**9/16** - Indian Affairs Announces \$500,000 in NABDI 2021 Grants Awarded to 10 Federally Recognized Tribes

**9/24** - BIA Announces Tribal Climate Resilience Grants Totaling \$13.84 Million Awarded For FY 2021

**10/27** - Foster system seeks more families in Native American communities as Stronger Families Together works toward recruitment goal

**11/5** - Historic alliance is formed in pursuit of improved Native American healthcare





STATE TRIBAL RELATIONS DAY 2022

# DEVELOPING ECONOMIC CONNECTIONS



**January 12 & 13, 2022**

**Rotunda Event**

Wednesday, January 12 • Capitol Rotunda  
9 AM to 3 PM

**Listening Session**

Thursday, January 13  
LET Building • 1302 E Hwy 14, Pierre, SD  
8:30 AM to NOON

**State of the Tribes Address**

Thursday, January 13 • House Floor  
1 PM

**Please RSVP**

To attend the Listening Session on January 13.

605.773.3415

SDTRIBALRELATIONS.SD.GOV





## More Information

<https://strongerfamiliesTogether.sd.gov/>

Foster and adoptive families are greatly needed in South Dakota. When families are unable to provide safe care for children due to significant challenges they are experiencing, foster families are needed. In addition to providing care for children, foster families also provide encouragement and support to the entire family as they are working to make changes so the children can return home. Adoptive families who can support children's identity and life-long connections are also needed if children cannot return home safely. In South Dakota most children adopted from foster care are adopted by their foster parents who have established a relationship with the child and their family connections.

Families supporting families is a shared value in South Dakota. By offering a helping hand to other families in our communities, we can build "Stronger Families Together".



- [Stronger Families Together Social Media Toolkit](#)
- [Myths and Facts about Becoming a Foster Parent](#)



# SERVICES & INFORMATION



SD DOH  
COVID-19  
Updates



IHS  
COVID-19  
Updates &  
Resources



GPTLHB  
COVID-19  
Updates &  
Resources



## CONTACTS



South Dakota  
Department of  
**Social Services**



COVID-19:  
TALK. SUPPORT. HELP.



METH ADDICTION IS  
EVERYONE'S PROBLEM.



EVERY ONE OF US  
has the power to save a life.



INFORMATION ABOUT  
FOSTER CARE



SDResponse.gov is a source for accurate, up-to-date  
information regarding emergency incidents.

### DEPARTMENT SECRETARY

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